

F O R  
W H O M  
A R E  
S C H O O L S  
O P E N I N G ?



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# **For whom are schools opening?**

**The commencement of the new school year on Monday, September 11 is marred by a troubling trend as of the summer of 2023: the exacerbation of educational deprivation, one facet of the more significant issue of poverty. In impoverished neighborhoods, there is a noticeable uptick in the number of students unable to attend school due to escalating financial hardships. The first casualties in this predicament are usually young girls.**

**According to findings from the Child Well-Being Istanbul Survey conducted on June 21, 2023, 16.3% of school-age children hailing from low-income households reported their inability to afford books and school supplies, 11.8% cited challenges affording clothing, 34.6% mentioned financial constraints preventing them from participating in school outings and similar activities (p.11), 30.4% do not receive a regular allowance (p.20), and a staggering 41.8% express concerns about being forced to drop out of school (p.32).**



# For whom are schools opening?

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK), annual inflation in July 2023 was 53.57% for education expenditures and 60.72% for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Both rates are above the average CPI rate of 47.83%.

According to the research of the Eđitim-İř Bursa branch, the cost of starting school in one year;

(increased)

- From 7,626 TL to 17,234 TL in pre-school,
- From 12,500 TL to 28,295 TL in primary school,
- from 13,304 TL to 30,600 TL in middle school,
- and from 13,717 TL to 31,000 TL in high school.

Thus, the average cost of starting school increased by 126% in one year.



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# For whom are schools opening?

## Disengagement from Education

- In Turkey, 16 out of every 100 children are either working or actively seeking work (TUIK, 2021).
- In Turkey, more than half of children aged 3 and above do not receive early childhood education (Eurostat, 2020).

## Girls Without Access to Education

Frequently, children from families entrenched in severe poverty are compelled to abandon their education in favor of employment. In approximately two-thirds of households grappling with multidimensional poverty, no single woman or girl has completed primary education. While boys tend to engage in social life through employment, girls are often channeled towards early marriage or domestic chores, effectively isolating them from broader social involvement.

- 866 thousand girls in the 2021-2022 school year did not have access to education (MEB, 2022).



# For whom are schools opening?

Young girls who are unable to pursue their education;

- might have their fundamental right to education denied,
- potentially forcing them into domestic responsibilities like tending to elderly or ill family members, housecleaning, and cooking, often overlooked duties.
- They face a significantly higher risk of being forced into child marriages compared to boys of their age.
- Access to essential healthcare services, contraceptives, and menstrual products is often denied to them.
- When subjected to violence, they encounter difficulties in accessing the justice system for protection and support.

**Equal, fair, and accessible education is possible for every child!**